

REMARKS

The invention solves the problems that occur when a pipe or conduit is misshapen so that its interior is no longer round.

In such a condition:

If the pig is rigid and relatively large in a radial direction, it won't fit through the pipe.

If the pig is rigid and relatively small in a radial direction, the seal will blow out.

Similarly, if the pig is entirely flexible (i.e. like Marcell, if Marcell were actually a pig intended to seal a pipe - which it is not) the seal will blow out and/or be prone to wear out prematurely.

The invention could be viewed as having something in-between these two extremes of rigid and wholly flexible. This is accomplished by the invention by affording a hollow, resilient support part that can conform to the interior profile of the pipe.

Applicants have earnestly attempted to fairly capture this concept in the above amendment to claim 1, and it is respectfully submitted that this concept is neither found nor suggested in the art of record.

The references cited against claim 1 are inapposite.

Workman '830 describes a piston seal comprising a main body 16 with a web 18 equated by the Examiner to the support part of the present invention. Claim 1 recites "the support part having a guide surface arranged to guide the pig in the conduit...". Regarding FIG. 2 of Workman, the "support part" respectively the web 18, is spaced from the inner surface of the external tube 50; consequently, the web 18 cannot serve as a guide for the pig. It is never contended in the text of this patent that the web 18 serves as a guide.

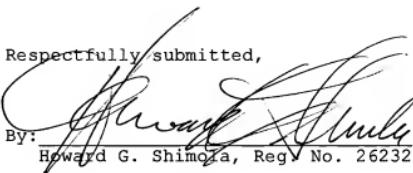
Marcell '279 describes a dispenser for a lubricant which is a very different object than the object of the invention. If the device of Marcell comprises a relatively thin wall, this wall does not comprise the support parts mentioned in claim 1 of the present application. As mentioned before, the web 18 of Workman cannot be considered as a guide. Further, the web 18 is located on a rigid part of the main body 16 and not on a "relatively thin wall tubular part..." as recited in claim 1. This "relatively thin wall tubular part..." cannot be compared to the rigid heavy wall main body 16 of Workman.

Dependent claims 2 - 5, 7 and 9 through 11 are patentably distinguishable over the art of record for the reasons set out above in connection with parent claim 1, and for the further structural and functional features recited therein.

If there are any fees required by this amendment, please
charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No.
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Respectfully submitted,

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